

GOODY TWO-SHOES.



NEW-HAVEN :

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Sidney's Press.—1821.

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GOODY TWO-SHOES,
VISITING THE POOR OF THE VILLAGE.

THE
HISTORY
OF
Goody Two-Shoes.



Embellished with Elegant Engravings.

NEW-HAVEN :
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THE HISTORY
OF
GOODY TWO-SHOES.



The father of Goody Two-Shoes was born in England ; and every body knows that, in that happy country, the poor are to the full as much protected by her excellent laws, as are the highest and the richest nobles in the land ; and the humblest cottager enjoys an equal share of the blessings of English liberty with the sons of the King themselves.

The real name of Little Goody Two-Shoes was Margery Meanwell. Her father was a farmer in the parish of Mouldwell, and was at one time in very good circumstances ; but it pleased Providence to afflict him with so many misfortunes, that

he became very poor, and was reduced to want. The farm of poor Mr. Meanwell was sold to pay his creditors; for he was too noble-minded to retain a property which now could not justly be called his. His creditors admired such conduct, and all cheerfully accepted their dividend as a compensation of their debt, except Sir Thomas Gripe, who, though possessed of very great riches, was of a very miserable disposition: in short, he was a miser, and resolved to have a law-suit against poor Meanwell, in order to obtain the money which was due to him, or to throw him into prison.

Poor Meanwell, to avoid the persecutions of this unfeeling man, retired with his wife and children into another county; where his upright conduct not being known, he could not readily obtain employment; and

having caught a severe cold for want of necessary covering, this, added to the grief and anxiety he felt for the distresses of his family, soon caused his death; his poor wife lived only two days after him, leaving Margery and her little brother Tommy to the wide world.

After their mother was dead, it would have done any one's heart good to have seen how fond these two little ones were of each other, and how, hand in hand, they trotted about. They loved each other, though they were very poor; and having neither parents nor friends to provide for them, they were both very ragged; as for Tommy, he had no shoes, and Margery had but one. They had nothing to support them for several days but what they picked from the hedges, or got from the poor people, and they lay every night in a barn.



Their relations took no notice of them ; no, they were rich, and ashamed to own such a poor little ragged girl as Margery, and such a dirty little curly pated boy as Tommy. Some people's relations and friends seldom takes notice of them when they are poor ; but as we grow rich

they grow fond. Indeed this will always be the case, while people love money better than virtue.

Mr. Smith was a very worthy clergyman, who lived in the parish where little Margery was born ; but, having a very small curacy, he could not follow the dictates of his heart in relieving the distresses of his fellow-creatures. As he knew farmer Meanwell in his prosperous days, he wished much to be of service to his poor orphan children.

It happened that a relation came on a visit to him, who was a charitable good man, and Mr. Smith, by his desire, sent for these poor children to come to him. The gentleman ordered Little Margery a new pair of shoes, gave her some money to buy clothes ; and said he would take Tommy to London, and make him a little sailor ; and accordingly

he had a jacket and trowsers made for him.

After some days, the gentleman went to London, and took little Tommy with him, of whom you will know more by and by ; for we shall, at a proper time, present you with some part of his adventures.

The parting between these two little children was very affecting. Tommy cried, and Margery cried, and they kissed each other a number of times : at last Tommy wiped off her tears with the end of his jacket, and bid her cry no more, for that he would come to her again when he returned from sea. When night came, little Margery grew very uneasy about her brother ; and, after sitting up as late as Mr. Smith would let her, she went crying to bed.

Little Margery got up in the morning very early, and ran all

round the village, crying for her brother, and after some time returned greatly distressed. However, at this instant the shoe-maker came in with the new shoes, for which she had been measured by the gentleman's order.

Nothing could have supported little Margery under the affliction she was in, but the pleasure she took in her new shoes : she ran out to Mrs. Smith as soon as they were put on, and, stroking down her frock, cried out, "Two shoes, ma'am ! see Two shoes !" and so she behaved to all the people she met, and by that means obtained the name of Goody Two-Shoes ; though her playmates called her old Goody Two-Shoes.

Little Margery, having seen how good and how wise Mr. Smith was, begged of him to teach her at his leisure moments. He very readily agreed

to do so : and little Margery attended him one hour in every evening.

By this means she soon got more learning than her playmates, and laid the following scheme for instructing those who were more ignorant than herself. She found that only twenty-six letters were required to spell all the words in the world ; but as some of these letters are large and some of them small, she cut out of several pieces of thin wood ten sets of each.

And having got an old spelling-book, she made her companions set up all the words they wanted to spell, and after that she taught them to compose sentences. You know, what a sentence is, my dear. "I will be good," is a sentence, and is made up of several words.

The usual manner of spelling, or carrying on the game, was this :

Supposing the word to be spelt was plumb-pudding, which is a very good thing, the children were placed in a circle, and the first brought up the letter p, the next l, the next u, the next m, and so on till the whole was spelled; and if any one brought a wrong letter, he was to pay a fine or to play no more. This was getting instruction at their play; and every morning she used to go round to teach the children with these letters in a basket.

I once went her rounds with her, and was highly diverted on the occasion. The first house we came to was Farmer Wilson's. Here Margery stopped, and ran up to the door, tap, tap, tap. Who's there? Only little Goody Two-Shoes, answered Margery, come to teach Billy. Oh! Little Goody, says Mrs. Wilson, with pleasure in her face, I am glad



to see you. Billy wants you sadly, for he has learned his lesson. Then out came the little boy. "How do, Doody Two-Shoes?" says he, not able to speak plain; and she accordingly went in, and proceeded in her usual manner to give Billy his lesson.

After leaving Farmer Wilson's

house, the next place she came to was Farmer Simpson's. "Bow, wow, wow," says the dog at the door. Sirrah, says his mistress, why do you bark at Little Two-Shoes? Come in, Madge; here, Sally wants you sadly, she has learned all the alphabet; and after giving little Sally her lesson, away Two-Shoes trotted to Gaffer Cook's cottage. Here a number of poor children were met to learn, who all came round Little Margery at once; having pulled out her letters, she asked the little boy next her, what he had for dinner? who answered, Bread. Well then, says she, set up the first letter. He put up the B, to which the next added r, the next e, the next a, the next d, and it stood thus, Bread.

And what had you Polly Comb, for your dinner? Apple pie, answered the little girl. Upon which the

next in turn set up a great A, the two next a p each, and so on till the two words Apple and Pie were united and stood thus, Apple Pie.

As she passed through the village, she met with some wicked boys, who had got a young raven, which they were going to throw at; she wanted to get the poor creature out of their cruel hands, and therefore gave them a penny for him, and brought him home. She called his name Ralph, and a fine bird he was.

Now this bird she taught to speak, to spell, and to read; and as he was particularly fond of playing with the large letters, the children used to call this Ralph's alphabet.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O
P Q R S T U V W X Y Z.

Some days after she had met with the Raven, as she was walking in the fields, she saw some naughty boys,

who had taken a pigeon, and tied a string to its legs, in order to let it fly, and draw it back again when they pleased ; and by this means they tortured the poor animal with the hopes of liberty and repeated disappointment.

This pigeon she also bought, and taught him to spell and read, though not to talk, and he performed all these extraordinary things which are recorded of the famous bird that was sometime since advertised in the Haymarket, and visited by most of the great people of the kingdom. This pigeon was a very pretty fellow, and she called him Tom.

And as the raven Ralph was fond of the large letters, Tom the pigeon took care of the small ones, of which he composed this alphabet.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q
r s t u v w x y z

Mrs. Williams, who kept a school for instructing little folks in the science of A, B, C, was at this time very old and infirm, and wanted to decline this important trust. This being told to Sir William Dove, he sent for Mrs. Williams, and desired she would examine little Two-Shoes, and see whether she was qualified for the office.—This was done, and Mrs. Williams made the following report in her favour, namely, that little Margery was “the best scholar, and had the best head and heart, of any one she had examined.” All the country had a great opinion of Mrs. Williams, and this character gave them also a great opinion of Miss Margery ; for so we must now call her.

No sooner was she settled in her office, than she laid every possible scheme to promote the welfare of all

her neighbours, and especially of her little ones, in whom she took great delight ; and all those whose parents could not afford to pay, she taught for nothing but the pleasure she had in their company ; for you are to observe, that they were very good, or were soon made so by her good management.

We have already informed the reader that the school where she taught was that which was before kept by Mrs. Williams. The room was large ; and as she knew that nature intended children should be always in action, she placed her different letters or alphabets all round the school,—so that every one was obliged to get up and fetch a letter, or to spell a word, when it came to their turn ; which not only kept them in health, but fixed the letters and the points firmly in their minds.

The School was in a very ruinous condition, which Sir William Dove being informed of, he ordered it to be rebuilt at his own expence ; and, till that could be done, farmer Grove was so kind as to let Miss Two-Shoes have his large hall to teach in.

The house built by Sir William had a statue erected over the door, of a boy sliding on the ice ; and under it were these lines, written by Miss Two-Shoes, and engraved at her expence.

ON SIN. A Simile.

As a poor urchin on the ice,
 When he has tumbled once or twice,
 With caution tries to seek the shore,
 Resolved to trust the ice no more ;
 But, meeting with a daring mate,
 Who, often used to slide and skate,
 Again is into danger led,
 And falls again and breaks his head :
 So youth, when first they're drawn to sin,
 And see the danger they are in,
 Would gladly quit the thorny way,
 And think it is unfit to stay ;

But, meeting with their wicked train,
 Return with them to sin again ;
 With them the paths of vice explore,
 With them are ruin'd evermore.

The neighbours, knowing that Miss Two-Shoes was very good, as to be sure nobody was better, made her a present of a little sky-lark.

Now as many boys and girls had learned to lie in bed long in the morning, she thought the lark might be of use to her and her pupils, and tell them when to get up.

“For he that is fond of his bed, and lies till noon, lives but half his days, the rest being lost in sleep, which is a kind of death.”

Some time after this a poor lamb had lost its dam, and the farmer being about to kill it, she bought it of him, and brought it home with her to play with the children, and teach them to go to bed ; for it was a rule with the wise men of that

time (and a very good one, let me tell you) to

“Rise with the lark, and lie down with the lamb.”

This lamb she called Will, and a pretty creature he was.

No sooner was Tippy the lark, and Will the ba-lamb brought into the school, but that sensible rogue Ralph, the Raven, composed the following verse, which every little good boy and girl should get by heart.

“Early to bed, and early to rise,
Is the way to be healthy, wealthy, and wise.”

Soon after this, a present was made to Miss Margery of a little dog, who was always in a good humour, and playing and jumping about, and therefore he was called Jumper. The place assigned for Jumper was that of keeping the door, for he would let nobody go out, or any one come in, without leave of his mistress.

Billy, the ba-lamb, was a cheerful fellow, and all the children were fond of him ; wherefore Miss Two-Shoes made it a rule that they who behaved best should have Will home with them at night, to carry their satchel, or basket, on his back, and bring it in the morning.

It happened one day, when Miss Two-Shoes was diverting the children after school, as she usually did, with some innocent games, or entertaining and instructive stories, that a man arrived with the melancholy news of Sally Jones's father being thrown from his horse, and thought past all recovery ; nay, the messenger said that he was seemingly dying when he came away. All the school was in tears, and the messenger was obliged to return ; but, before he went, Miss Two-Shoes, unknown to the children, ordered Tom Pigeon

to go home with the man, and bring her a letter to inform her how Mr. Jones did.

Soon after the man was gone, the Pigeon was lost, and the concern the children were under for Mr. Jones and little Sally was in some measure diverted, and part of their attention turned after Tom, who was a great favourite, and consequently much bewailed. She then told them a story of Mr. Lovewell, father of Lady Lucy, and of the losses and misfortunes he met with.

After she had concluded the story, something was heard to flap at the window. Bow, wow, wow, says Jumper, and attempted to leap up and open the door, at which the children were surprised; but Miss Margery, knowing what it was, opened the casement, as Noah did the window of the ark, and drew in Tom Pigeon with the letter.



As soon as he was placed upon the table he walked up to little Sally, and dropping the letter, cried "Coo, coo, coo;" as much as to say, 'There, read it. Now this poor pigeon had travelled fifty miles in about an hour, and brought the agreeable intelligence that Mr. Jones was out of danger.

Miss Margery, who was always doing good, next procured an instrument to direct Mr. Grove and the farmers when to mow their grass with safety, and prevent their hay being spoiled.

Finding she told very true as to wet and dry weather, she was taken up and carried before the magistrate for a witch ; but when she laid a barometer or weather glass on the table, and said it was by that she told people when it would be wet or dry, all the people present burst out into a laugh at her accusers.

But Sir William Dove, after inveighing against the absurd and foolish notions about witches, gave the court such an account of Miss Margery and her virtue, good sense, and prudent behaviour, that the gentlemen present were enamoured with her, and returned her public thanks

for the great service she had done the country.

Sir Charles Jones had by this time conceived such a high opinion of Miss Margery, that he offered her a considerable sum to undertake the care of his family, and the education of his daughter; which, however, she refused: but this gentleman sending for her afterwards, when he had a dangerous fit of illness, she went, and behaved so prudently in the family, and so tenderly to him and his daughter, that he would not permit her to leave his house, but soon after made her proposals of marriage.

She was truly sensible of the honour he intended her, but, though poor, she would not consent to be made a lady, till he had effectually provided for his daughter, for she told him that power was a dangerous thing to be trusted with, and

that a good man or woman would never throw themselves into the road of temptation.

All things being settled, and the day fixed, the neighbours came in crowds to see the wedding; for they were all glad that one who had been such a good girl, and was become such a virtuous and good woman, was going to be made a lady: but, just as the clergyman had opened his book, a gentleman, richly dressed, ran into the church, and cried "Stop! stop!" This greatly alarmed the congregation, particularly the intended bride and bridegroom, whom he first accosted, and desired to speak with them apart. After they had been talking some time, the people were greatly surprised to see Sir Charles stand motionless, and his bride cry and faint away in the stranger's arms. This seeming



grief, however, was only a prelude to a flood of joy, which immediately succeeded ; for you must know, gentle reader, that this gentleman, so richly dressed, was the identical little boy whom you before heard of wiping his poor sister's face with the corner of his sailor's jacket ; in short,

it was little Tommy Two-Shoes, Miss Margery's brother, who had just come from beyond sea, where he had made a large fortune; and hearing, as soon as he landed, of his sister's intended wedding, had rode post to see that a proper settlement was made on her; which he thought she was now entitled to, as he himself was both able and willing to give her an ample fortune. They soon returned, and were married in tears—but they were tears of joy.

The affection that subsisted between this happy couple is inexpressible; but time, which dissolves the closest union, after six years severed Sir Charles from his lady; for, being seized with a violent fever, he died, and left her full of grief, though possessed of a large fortune.

We forgot to remark, that, after her marriage, Lady Jones ordered a

house in the village to be fitted up for a school, and placed a poor man and his wife there, who were well acquainted with the English language, and set good examples to the whole village in sobriety and honesty ; here she permitted all the poor children to be taught to read and write, strictly desiring the school-mistress to instruct the girls in useful needle-work, and the school-master having been a turner by trade, taught many of the lads his art, so that they could make several useful articles ; which induced her to recommend those who were most ingenious to tradesmen as apprentices. In short, she was a mother to the poor, a physician to the sick, and a friend to all who were in distress. Her life was the greatest blessing, and her death the greatest calamity that ever was felt in the neighbourhood.

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